

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /172 W
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R 221542Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5519

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1036

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH UR VN VS RP

SUBJ: SOVIET REACTIONS TO PRC EXPULSION OF DIPLOMATS AND
TO PRC-GVN CLASH

REF: A. USLO PEKING 105 (NOTAL); B. MOSCOW 955 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET MFA VERSION OF CHINESE EXPULSION OF FIVE
SOVIET OFFICIALS, AS GIVEN TO JAPANESE EMBASSY JANUARY 21,
IS THAT INCIDENT WAS COOKED UP BY CHINESE LEFTISTS OPPOSED TO
CHOU EN-LAI. END SUMMARY.

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2. ASSUMING DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT, WE SUMMARIZE FOR OTHER

ADDRESSES SOVIET MFA NOTE OF JAN 21 PROTESTING PRC ACTION IN PEKING. NOTE CARRIED IN CENTRAL SOVIET PRESS JAN 22. IGNORING EXPULSION OF FIVE (THOUGH CONCEDED THEY HAVE RETURNED TO MOSCOW) NOTE PROTESTS AGAINST THEIR "ARREST AND BARBARIC TREATMENT." IT DWELLS ON STAGED CHARACTER OF INCIDENT, ALLEGING PRE-POSITIONED CROWDS, MOVIE CAMERAS, TAPE RECORDERS, AND Klieg LIGHTS. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND THREAT OF EXECUTION USED TO ELICIT (UNSUCCESSFULLY) CONFESSIONS OF ESPIONAGE. NOTE EMPHASIZES REPEATED SOVIET EMBASSY DEMANDS FOR INFORMATION AND ACCESS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATION AND PROTEST BY MFA IN MOSCOW, PRIOR TO RELEASE OF FIVE JANUARY 19. NOTE ASCRIBES INCIDENT TO CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S NEED FOR ANTI-SOVIET PROVOCATION AND ASSERTS THAT CONSEQUENCES OF ACTION REST WITH PRC GOVERNMENT.

3. JAPANESE EMBOFF, WHO CALLED JANUARY 21 ON V.I. TRIFONOV, FIRST SECRETARY AND CHINA EXPERT IN MFA'S FIRST FAR EASTERN DIVISION, HAS PROVIDED US FOLLOWING SOVIET VERSION OF PRC ACTION (AS WELL AS OF PRC-GVN CLASH OVER PARACEL ISLANDS).

4. PLEADING SOVIET INNOCENCE, TRIFONOV INTERPRETED PRC ACTION AGAINST SOVIETS IN PEKING AS PRODUCT OF CHINESE INTERNAL STRUGGLE. HE SAW IT AS ACT OF ANTI-CHOU LEFTISTS, WHO HAVE GAINED STRENGTH SINCE APRIL 1973 (JAPANESE EMBOFF WAS UNABLE TO DRAW TRIFONOV OUT ON WHY THAT DATE WAS IMPORTANT). ACCORDING TRIFONOV, LEFTISTS NEEDED A WAY TO APPEAL TO CHINESE NATIONALIST FEELINGS AND TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR POWER. HENCE THEY RIGGED INCIDENT AGAINST SOVIETS.

5. TRIFONOV POINTED TO DECEMBER 23 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ABOUT FOREIGN ESPIONAGE WHICH IN RETROSPECT HE READ AS INDIRECT WARNING TO SOVIETS. HE IMPLIED TO JAPANESE THAT THERE WOULD BE COUNTERMEASURES, WHICH MAY ALREADY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IF AP STORY OF WEEKEND ARREST IN IRKUTSK AND EXPULSION OF CHINESE ATTACHE KUAN HENG-KUANG PROVES OUT.

6. DESPITE INCIDENT, TRIFONOV TOLD JAPANESE THAT SOVIET DEPUTY FOMIN AND BORDER NEGOTIATOR ILICHEV WOULD RETURN TO PEKING LATE THIS MONTH OR EARLY IN FEBRUARY.

7. ON PARACELS, TRIFONOV SAID QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP SHOULD
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BE SETTLED BY PARTIES INVOLVED, NOTING THAT NOT ONLY GVN AND PRC BUT ALSO PHILIPPINES CLAIM THEM. TRIFONOV SAID THAT TO KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET MFA, NORTH VIET NAM HAS NEVER STATED ITS POSITION ON OWNERSHIP OF ISLANDS. TRIFONOV EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CURRENT FRACAS WAS BEGUN BY SOUTH VIET NAM AND THAT MAIN ISSUE WAS OIL, WITH SOUTH VIET NAM KEEN TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. OIL COMPANIES. DUBS

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